

# Proposed Research Efforts by the Keston Institute for Infrastructure in Support of CEQA Improvement

*presented to*

The Advisory Group for CEQA Improvement  
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# *Proposed Research Projects*

- ⌘ CEQA and the Provision of Critical Infrastructure
- ⌘ Improved Long-Range Planning to Support the Delivery of Critical Infrastructure

# CEQA and the Provision of Critical Infrastructure

- Issue: CEQA is alleged to cause frivolous and unnecessary delays and cost increases in the provision of critical infrastructure
- Objective: To determine what types of delays and costs are identified as “unnecessary by infrastructure providers and to evaluate whether, and to what extent, CEQA adds such delays and costs to the delivery of critical infrastructure

# CEQA and the Provision of Critical Infrastructure

## Approach

- (1) Convene two roundtable discussions with infrastructure providers to determine what they consider an “unnecessary” cost/schedule impact based on their experience with a variety of projects
- (2) Interview engineering, contracting, and legal firms that work in California and other states to determine if there are meaningful differences in the number of such “unnecessary” cost/schedule impacts between California and other states and whether there are meaningful differences in project delivery times, review and permitting costs, and mitigation measures

# CEQA and the Provision of Critical Infrastructure

**Product:** Report that summarizes the results of the roundtable discussions and interviews, identifies priority issues for resolution, and potential legislative/administrative solutions

# Improved Long-Range Planning to Support the Delivery of Critical Infrastructure

**Issue:** For a variety of reasons, very little long-range planning is conducted by local governments in California. As a result, the EIR process required by CEQA has become the *de facto* statewide planning mechanism. The project-specific nature of the CEQA review process makes it difficult to develop and implement coordinated regional approaches to impact mitigation.

# Improved Long-Range Planning to Support the Delivery of Critical Infrastructure

**Objective:** To identify a mechanism for the appropriate levels of governance to carry out comprehensive and coordinated long-range planning for critical infrastructure and implement necessary mitigation measures.

# Improved Long-Range Planning to Support the Delivery of Critical Infrastructure

## Approach

- (1) Estimate the revenue requirements for localities to develop and update long-range comprehensive plans on a statewide basis
- (2) Determine the extent to which the continuing cost of CEQA review could offset the cost of a statewide planning process
- (3) Explore alternative mechanisms for redirecting the cost of CEQA review to a statewide planning process



# Improved Long-Range Planning to Support the Delivery of Critical Infrastructure

## Approach

- (4) Identify potential mechanisms for funding and implementing mitigation measures
- (5) Identify other areas related to the existing CEQA process that would need to be modified to accommodate a front-end oriented review process

# Improved Long-Range Planning to Support the Delivery of Critical Infrastructure

**Product:** Report that discusses the financial feasibility and implications of shifting the focus of California planning from a project-by-project review driven by CEQA to a longer range comprehensive process

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